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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: SONY-50R4813

Inventor(s): IWAMURA

Group Art Unit: 2131

Filed: October 5, 2001

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: 09/972,371

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR A SECURE DIGITAL DECODER WITH SECURE KEY DISTRIBUTION

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The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Technology Center 2100

Information Disclosure Statement Submitted Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

The citations referenced herein, copies attached, may be material to the examination of the above-identified application and are, therefore, submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56. The Examiner is requested to make these citations of official record in the application.

This Information Disclosure Statement submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional items material to the examination of this application do not exist, or that any one or more of these citations constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102.


The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the following U.S. Patents:

<u>Pat. No.</u>	<u>Pat. Title</u>	<u>Grant Date</u>
6,189,919	STEERING COLUMN ARRANGEMENT FOR OCCUPANT PROTECTION	Feb. 20, 2001
5,029,207	EXTERNAL SECURITY MODULE FOR A TELEVISION SIGNAL DECODER	Jul. 2, 1991
6,236,727	APPARATUS, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR PROTECTING COPYRIGHT DATA WITHIN A COMPUTER SYSTEM	May 22, 2001

Please direct all correspondence concerning the above-identified application to the following address:

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U.S. Patent Documents

Technology Center 2100

Examiner Initial	No.	Patent No.	Date	Patentee	Class	Sub-class	Filing Date
	A	6,236,727	5/22/01	Clace III, et al.	380	5	6/24/97
	B	6,189,919	2/20/01	Sinnhuber et al.	280	731	4/14/98
	C	5,029,207	7/2/91	Gammie	380	10	2/1/90
	D						
	E						
	F						
	G						
	H						
	I						
	J						
	K						

Foreign Patent or Published Foreign Patent Application

Examiner Initial	No.	Document No.	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Sub-class	Translation	
							Yes	No
	L							
	M							
	N							
	O							
	P							
	Q							

Other Documents

Examiner Initial	No.	Author, Title, Date, Place (e.g. Journal) of Publication
	R	
	S	
	T	
Examiner		Date Considered

Examiner: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.